

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Power**  
**Hearing on “The FY 2016 DOE Budget”**  
**February 11, 2015**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Secretary Moniz, welcome back to the committee. I hope that today’s discussion is just one of many with DOE on creating a 21st century energy policy. The areas of disagreement between Republicans and the Obama administration often get most of the attention. But while our differences remain, I’m one who will always look for areas of agreement – areas of common ground on an energy policy that can benefit all Americans.

We have seen a tremendous increase in oil and natural gas production here in the U.S. and across North America. We are already seeing the benefits of abundant and affordable energy – at the gas pump, in our power bills, and with the creation of new jobs.

But for more Americans to see even more benefits, we need to move beyond decades-old energy scarcity policies. We need to maximize the benefits of North American energy. At the committee, we call this building the Architecture of Abundance.

The first step is to upgrade and modernize our energy infrastructure. The new energy coming online is of no use if we can’t deliver it to consumers and businesses. We need a modern and more resilient infrastructure to safely and responsibly maximize our growing oil and gas output. Our bipartisan pipeline safety legislation was an important milestone, but there’s more work to do. We also need to ensure that our electric grid can meet the challenges of the future, everything from advanced grid technologies to protecting against weather events or physical and cyber security threats.

America’s energy abundance is also proving to be a powerful jobs creator. Not only in places like Texas and North Dakota where production is booming, but also in Michigan and other manufacturing states where low energy prices are fueling growth and attracting new jobs. According to one study, modernizing North America’s energy infrastructure could support an average of 432,000 jobs per year through 2035.

Despite the recent decline in oil prices, there continues to be many job opportunities for trained workers. But the key word here is “trained.” One industry study estimates that there will be 600,000 career opportunities for women and minorities in energy in the years ahead. We need to ensure the necessary education and job training is available to all Americans.

Our energy potential makes us more secure at home and more powerful abroad. We can diminish the political influence of other energy exporters like Russia and Iran, and help many of our allies who would much rather buy their energy from the United States. But it will only happen if energy security and geopolitical benefits become a part of our policy decision-making.

Let’s not lose sight of the opportunity to turn America into an energy superpower and the bipartisan efforts that will help us get there. Dr. Moniz, we have a unique opportunity to work together as we look to fulfill our tremendous energy potential.

###